

CRANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

A meeting of the Cranston Public Library Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday, April 10, 2024 at 6:00p at the Cranston Central Library.

Present were:

Michael Goldberg

R. Drayton Fair

Diane Schaefer

Jack Tregar

Larry Warner (arrived 6:09pm)

Ed Garcia, Library Director

Allyson Quintanilla, Secretary for the Board of Trustees

Excused: Regina Spirito, Jen Cowart, Julie Holden

INTRODUCTION: 6:03p

The meeting was called to order at 6:03p.

MINUTES: 6:03p

A motion was made by Jack Tregar to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 13, 2024. Diane Schaefer seconded. Motion carried (3-0).

LIBRARY ADMINISTRATION REPORT: 6:04p

Administration Updates

The Central library hosted FEMA and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) in the Giles Room for 6 days at the end of March/beginning of April. Representatives were here to meet with those affected by the Dec. 17-19, 2023, storms and flooding or the Jan. 9-13, 2024, storms and flooding.

Admin decided to cancel our Zoom Rooms licenses. This license was originally part of an ARPA grant the library received to provide virtual meeting space for patrons at Central and Hall. The usage never materialized to the anticipated level so the decision was made to not renew the licenses for a savings of \$1400. The equipment still works and can be used to provide access to Zoom and other services by connecting a laptop.

The library received a non-competitive summer reading programming grant of \$2400 from the RI Office of Library and Information Services.

The library received \$5944 from the Joseph B. Merrick Fund at the RI Foundation through the Cranston Public Library Association. Library staff submitted project ideas and funds have been awarded. Projects included: updating computer & technology books for beginner and intermediate users at Central; Playaways for adult readers at Auburn; Updated travel books at Central including more titles for non-European and American destinations; updated medical collection at William Hall; Spanish language early reader, picture books and nonfiction at Central; Spanish bilingual titles for Audio Enabled book collections at Central and Hall; replace and maintain School Tools collection at Central; expand Audio Enabled Book collection with Classic picture books & early readers at Knightsville; update nonfiction medical collection at Hall; update adult Sci-Fi-Fantasy, refresh adult paperbacks, diverse youth materials, audio enabled books at Oaklawn.

Reminder - The Trustees need to file their financial disclosure reports with the RI Ethics Commission in April. Information at <https://ethics.ri.gov/financial-disclosure>

An ordinance has been proposed at the City Council to increase minimum wage for high school students to \$15 an hour. The city solicitor has confirmed that this would not affect students working at the library as Cranston Public Library employees are exempt from the city minimum wage ordinance (Draft ordinance attached to report). The City Council unanimously approved the resolution to fully fund state aid to libraries. The ordinance was communicated to the Governor and the Cranston General Assembly delegation.

Buildings and Grounds

William Hall: in mid-March we contacted ATG to investigate a problem connecting to the projector at the William Hall Library. There were also two POE (power over Ethernet) ports that were not working. ATG discovered that the Wi-Fi and POE switches had failed and needed to be replaced in order to restore Wi-Fi and POE functionality. Once the switches were replaced, the Wi-Fi, projector, and POE ports resumed working properly.

The library brought in 1-800-Got-Junk to remove old furniture and clutter from storage areas at Hall.

The Arlington Branch panic button failed the annual test, so we are scheduling a repair.

Programming

Senator Jack Reed hosted his annual Women's History Month program at Central on March 27th.

The Central Library will host the new CCAP Mobile Medical Assistance van on April 15th.

Library staff distributed over 1,600 pairs of solar eclipse glasses to our patrons for the April 8th eclipse.

Staff Updates

Teen Librarian Alyssa Taft has been named the 2024 URI Graduate School of Library and Information Studies Recent Alumni Award.

ATTACHMENTS:

Minimum wage ordinance

BUDGET REPORT: 6:13p

The budget report was distributed reflecting July 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024.

The draft FY25 proposed budget was also distributed to the Board. The Board noted several concerns including reductions in part-time line, errors in the salary scheduled submitted by the city administration, and chronic underfunding of fixed costs. Ed Garcia will bring these concerns to the Budget Hearing on Saturday. The library has seen major increases in recent years in utilities, building insurance with the city policy (135% increase over six years) and tipping fees (49% increase over four years) with no increased funding.

NEW BUSINESS: 7:02 p

OneCranston Health Equity Zone submitted a proposal to install bicycle racks at the Knightsville Branch.

A motion was made by Jack Tregar to approve the complete installation of two bicycle racks at the Knightsville Branch at no cost to the Cranston Public Library, pending final location approval by library administration. Larry Warner Seconded. Motion carried (4-0).

ADJOURNMENT: 7:10p

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Diane Schaefer. Drayton Fair seconded. Motion carried (4-0).